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## WHEN WILL THE 2011 POPULATION CENSUS RESULTS BE RELEASED?



The first results of the 2011 Population Census will be released in June 2012.

Processing activity, including collection, capture, coding and validation, began in August 2011, with the total processing phase expected to last approximately 11 months.

Following the initial June 2012 release, the second round of data will be released in October 2012, and a third phase, which involves dissemination of highly specialised products, will take place in 2013.

### Data release program

- First release - Core demographic data items (for persons and dwellings) will be available **(21 June 2012)**
- Second release - Others that require more detailed processing (family & household composition, industry and occupation) **(30 October 2012)**
- Third release, or supplementary data release - highly specialised products (such as SEIFA and the Census Sample Files), beginning on **28 March 2013**, with products released progressively until the end of 2013.
- Find more information on products by release dates in Appendix 12

### 2011 Census product changes

In response to your feedback, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has made substantial changes to the way you can access 2011 Census data on the ABS website. An expanded range of Census information will be available, and new products developed that take advantage of new internet functionality. There will be some new products, whilst others will no longer be produced. The full range of Census products are detailed in Chapter 5: The 2011 Census Data Product Range.

#### New Products

TableBuilder Basic (free product)

Create your own tables of Census data and view graphs and maps for a range of areas. Replaces CData Online.

TableBuilder Pro (priced product)

Build and customise your own tables with the full 2011 Census dataset. The ultimate Census analysis tool for the advanced user. Replaces Census TableBuilder.

The ABS released an Information Paper in December 2011 to announce plans for the release of results from the 2011 Population Census. The Paper provides information on changes to 2011 Census data concepts and classifications, outlines the output product range and associated pricing policies, and confirms key release dates for the full range of 2011 Census output products.

For more information see the Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Products and Services (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001).

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## ABS BETAWORKS



### Be a part of the future ABS

The ABS' ingenious use of ABS betaWorks™ continues to go from strength to strength, having been named a finalist in the 2011 "Excellence in eGovernment" Awards for its leading-edge Government 2.0 work.

A team of dedicated forward thinking web designers launched ABS betaWorks™ in 2009, creating an open invitation to the Australian community to assist the ABS with identifying, prioritising and developing fresh web design concepts and enhancements for the ABS website.

It generates keen discussion and offers opportunities for input into potential innovations for the ABS website, providing the ABS with vital intelligence on customer requirements for the online communication of statistics. Integration with Twitter and Facebook makes sharing concepts with others a simple button click away.

Examples include a CPI Kaleidoscope, data visualisation trends, ABS product level search (to be released in February), animated Gifs and a statistical snapshot dashboard.

With community input, we'll be releasing an iPhone app in the first quarter of 2012, creating easy access to key statistics.

Head over to ABS betaWorks™ and help us shape your experience with the ABS.

ABS betaWorks™ can be viewed at <http://betaworks.abs.gov.au/> [twitter.com/yourabs](https://twitter.com/yourabs)

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## NEW DATA VISUALISATIONS NOW APPEARING ON THE ABS WEBSITE

The ABS Customer Insights team has been working on exciting new data visualisations which have recently begun appearing on the ABS website. These illustrate and present data in a visually appealing and interactive way.

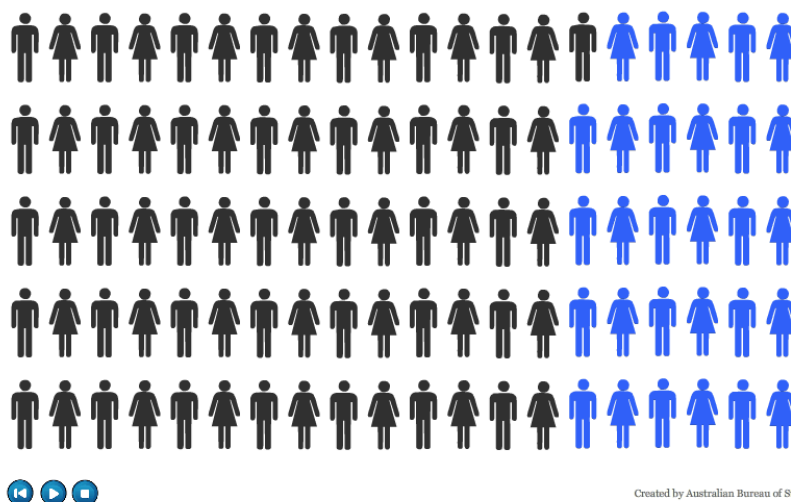
This form of presentation can make it simpler for web users to digest statistical information, rather than relying on traditional formats like tables, graphs and text. Statistical information can be made more understandable and accessible to a wider range of readers if presented in a multi-layered way, such as including colour and movement.

### Examples of the new data visualisations include:

- **100 People** portraits - these are interactive graphics which display statistical information based on the scenario "*If Australia were only 100 People, x number would be .....*"

If Australia were only 100 people (over the age of 15)...

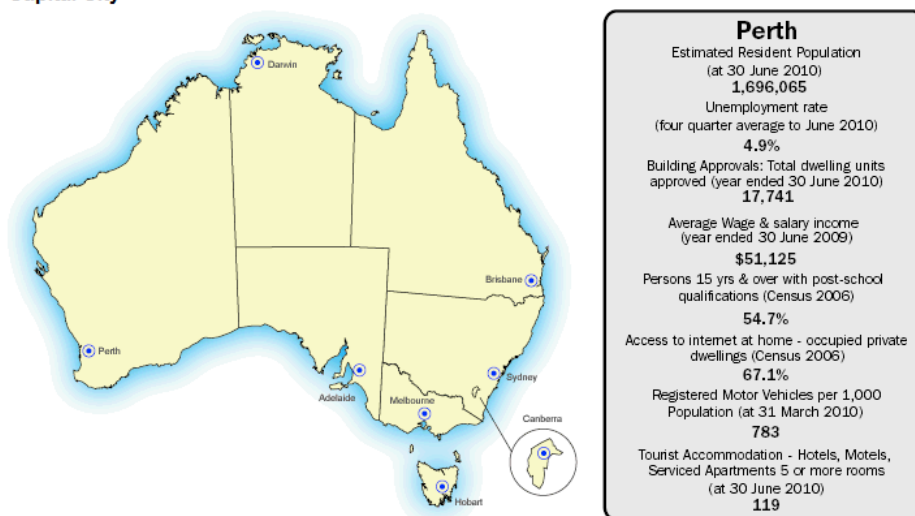
29 rated their health as good.



View this live on the Health topics page on the ABS website.

- **Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) Maps** allow you to click on the maps to find your region of interest and display statistical headline information for each Australian state.

#### Your Capital City



View this live on the Regional Statistics - Capital Cities topics page.

The tools used to create these data visualisations are now available for state government clients who may wish to use them to present their own data. For more information please contact Linda Bencic (03) 9615 7075 or Jarryd Guilfoyle (03) 9615 7084.

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## ESSENTIAL STATISTICAL ASSETS FOR AUSTRALIA

Over the last 18 months the ABS, through its role in the National Statistical Service (NSS), has commenced work towards developing a list of the essential statistics required for critical informed decision making for the nation. Essential statistics are defined as those that meet a set of criteria; statistics that are required to meet domestic or legislative requirements, international reporting obligations, those that are of importance to key national progress measurement or critical for public policy or service delivery.

The identification of a list of agreed essential statistics and their underlying statistical assets (i.e. datasets) will enable the Australian Government, in partnership with state and territory governments, to pursue the following objectives:

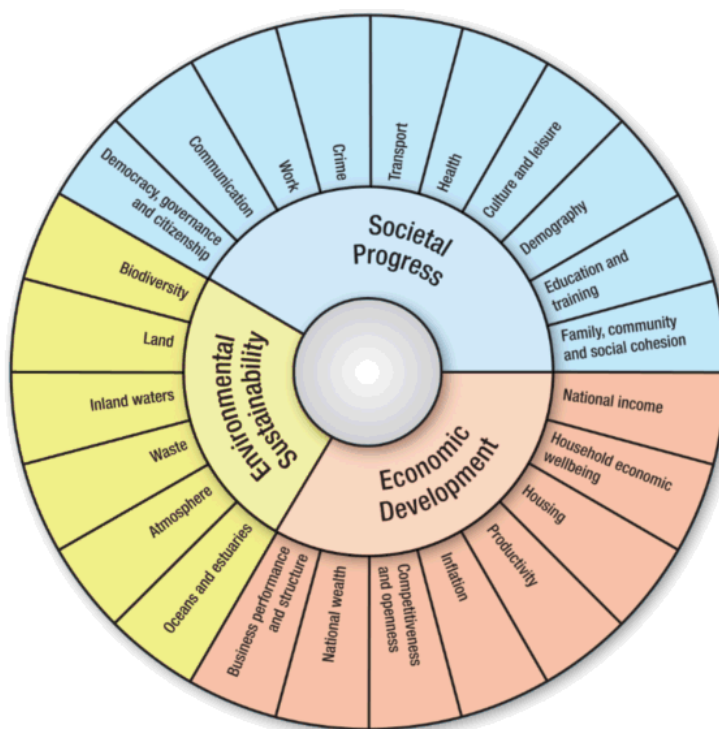
- identification of critical information gaps, so that these can be addressed
- ensuring that the critically important information (statistics/data) are of sufficient quality

- the efficient use of government resources by identifying areas of duplication and underutilisation.

The **Essential Statistical Assets for Australia (ESA)** initiative will produce a high level list that separates the essential statistics from the multitude of other official statistics generated by governments. This includes the identification of statistics considered essential that do not currently exist. This will be followed by a comprehensive quality assessment of the essential statistics and datasets that will aid in understanding their fitness for purpose in meeting the needs of users.

The following organising framework, based on the framework applied in Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators (cat. no. 1370.0.55.001), will be used to organise essential statistics into three pillars; societal progress, economic development, environment sustainability and their specific sub-dimensions:

### Essential Statistical Assets for Australia Framework



The ABS is currently finalising a preliminary list, based on intelligence gathered from consultation with the Australian Statistical Advisory Council (ASAC), peak state and territory statistical fora and other existing engagement networks, to support discussions with stakeholders. The next stage to be undertaken (following finalisation of the preliminary list) is for the ABS to engage in a wide external consultative process with the aim of developing a list of essential statistics that is supported across Governments and by the community.

A public information paper is being developed for future release on the NSS website, <<http://www.nss.gov.au>> in 2012, inviting comment and feedback from the broader ABS user community, input will be sought from relevant existing ABS User Groups, as well as a range of other key stakeholders (Government and non-Government) and the community. An update on the initiative was presented to ASAC on 15 November 2011, where the consultation plans for 2012 were discussed.

For more information on ESA please contact Marie Apostolou (03) 9615 7500 or Paul Romanis (03) 9615 7362 or email [inquiries@nss.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@nss.gov.au)

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### AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY INDICATORS NETWORK

In the past decade there has been strong and growing interest in community indicators across governments and communities at all levels. Given this growing interest in community indicators, the Australian Community Indicators Network (ACIN) has been established by a group of professionals working in this field. The ACIN aims to assist people using or developing community indicators to share ideas and information, and to foster collaboration. The Network aspires to build a national dialogue and knowledge base across community indicator policy, research and practice. Further details, including how to become a member, can be found on the ACIN website at <<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/acin/web/Frontpage.html>>.

In 2011 the ACIN held two events, the first was a video seminar with guest speaker Associate Professor Meg Holden presenting on 'Best Practice and Emerging Principles in the Community Indicators Movement'. The second was a video seminar featuring three presentations on current 'Key Australian Community Indicator Initiatives'. The seminar recordings can be found on the National Statistical Service website at < <http://www.nss.gov.au/nss/home.nsf/NSS/E590D5E7221C7C4ECA2578A2000704E9?opendocument>>.

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### FEATURE ARTICLE: POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX FOR AUSTRALIAN STATES AND TERRITORIES



In December 2011, the ABS released a feature article in Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0), titled Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories. This article discusses features of Australia's ageing population, including:

- differences in population structure between the states and territories
- features of different population age groups including those aged between 15 and 64 years (working age population) and of the population aged 65 years and over, 85 years and over and 100 years and over
- median age
- sex ratios.

An international comparison is also given for the population structure of selected countries.

The ABS releases data about the size and distribution by state and territory of the population in Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0) each quarter. Each year, single year of age data is released in spreadsheets and datacubes accompanying this publication. These spreadsheets and datacubes contain estimates of the resident population (ERP) of Australian states and territories by single year of age and by sex, as at 30 June of each reference year. The spreadsheets include median ages, mean ages and sex ratios. Estimates up to June 2006 are final, those for 2007, 2008 and 2009 are revised and 2010 and 2011 are preliminary.

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## CONFIDENTIALITY INFORMATION SERIES: A NEW RESOURCE FROM THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE

### Keeping it Confidential



The National Statistical Service (NSS) has released a series of information sheets which deal with the important issue of **confidentiality**. The Confidentiality Information Series explains and provides advice about key aspects of confidentiality.

Agencies that collect information about people or organisations have a legal and ethical responsibility to protect the privacy and identity of those who provided the information. This is essential in maintaining the trust of both data providers and users, and results in better quality data. Agencies can do this by implementing policies and procedures to ensure that no-one can be identified in the information that they disseminate. This needs to be done in a way that maximises the usefulness of the data for statistical and research purposes.

Simply removing obvious identifying information from a dataset may not be enough to prevent identification of the individuals or organisations who provided the information. Additional details, like a rare characteristic or a recognisable combination of unique features, might allow other parties to deduce a person or organisation's identity. For example, a person with very rare disease may be recognisable even in aggregated data. In order to avoid this sort of indirect identification of individuals or organisations, extra steps must be taken. This requires removing or altering information, or collapsing the level of detail, and there are various techniques that are used to do this. Additional measure are needed for unit record data where each record represents observations for a person or organisation.

The **Confidentiality Information Series** sheets outline legislative obligations and government policies and principles relating to confidentiality, and a process for mitigating the risk of accidental disclosure. They explain methods used to confidentialise data, and a discussion of how to manage confidentiality when dealing with microdata.

The **Confidentiality Information Series** is an excellent resource for anyone collecting or using statistics, and can be accessed or downloaded from the NSS website at <http://www.nss.gov.au/nss/home.NSF/pages/Confidentiality+Information+Sheets>. The series will be expanded in future to include additional information about aspects of data confidentiality.

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## RUNNING YOUR OWN SAMPLE SURVEY AND NEED TO CALCULATE SAMPLE SIZE?



The National Statistical Service (NSS) has recently released an updated version of the sample size calculator on the NSS website [www.nss.gov.au](http://www.nss.gov.au). The calculator now includes easy to follow hover-over definitions. The sample size calculator is a useful resource for survey managers, market researchers and students wanting to calculate the number of responding units required for a survey using simple random sample methodology.

All components required to calculate sample size are clearly explained:

#### EXAMPLE ONLY:

- Confidence level
- Population size
- Proportion



- Confidence interval
- Standard error
- Relative standard error

### Determine Sample Size

Confidence Level: 95% i

Population Size:  i

Proportion:  i

☒ Confidence Interval:  i

Upper

Lower

☐ Standard Error  i

☐ Relative Standard Error  i

☐ Sample Size:  i

Calculate
Clear

### How do I use it?

1. Select the Confidence Level you want to work at.
2. If you are sampling from a finite population (one that isn't very large), enter the Population Size.
3. If you already know the estimate Proportion, or want to check the Relative Standard Error of an existing estimate, fill in the Proportion. If left blank it will be assumed to be 0.5.
4. You must fill in one of the Confidence Interval, Standard Error, Relative Standard Error or Sample Size. Make sure the bullet point corresponding to the one you wish to specify is selected.
5. Press **Calculate** to perform the calculation, or **Clear** to start again.

[Sample Size Calculator Examples](#)  
[Sample Size Calculator Definitions](#)

The sample size calculator allows calculation of the size for the responding sample, standard error and/or relative standard error at the desired confidence interval (95% or 99%) using one or more of the above components as input.

For example, if you input the standard error or relative standard error of an estimate, the calculator will tell you the required responding sample size. Conversely, if you know the responding sample size, you can calculate the standard error or relative standard error of an estimate.

The Sample Size Calculator is only recommended for use in simple random sample survey scenarios. It should not be used when calculating sample sizes for surveys using complex sampling methods.

While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the calculator, users are encouraged to seek assistance from statistical experts to ensure results produced by the calculator meet survey objectives.

The sample size calculator can be accessed at the following address:

<http://www.nss.gov.au/nss/home.NSF/pages/Sample+size+calculator?OpenDocument>

If you have any questions, or would like further information about the calculator please contact [inquiries@nss.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@nss.gov.au).

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## CREATE YOUR OWN TABLES AND GRAPHS FROM ABS DATA USING THE SURVEY TABLEBUILDER TOOL



The ABS is pleased to announce the release of **Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2009** dataset in Survey TableBuilder to a limited number of users for evaluation purposes. Over the next 2-3 months we will be seeking feedback from this evaluation group to improve functionality before making the product available to all clients.

Like the very popular Census TableBuilder released in 2009, Survey TableBuilder is an online tool for creating confidentialised tables and graphs from ABS data. Starting with an empty table, data variables can be selected for cross-tabulation to produce small or large tables. Tables can be exported in CSV, Excel or SDMX format and graphs in PDF format.

The User Manual: Survey TableBuilder (cat. no. 1406.0.55.005) provides information about how to build and customise tables in Survey TableBuilder. More information in relation to Survey TableBuilder is available on the Microdata Entry Page via the ABS website at <https://abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/Microdata+Entry+Page>.

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## WANT TO UNDERSTAND ABS LABOUR STATISTICS?



The feature article: Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics, published in the recent release of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), unveils some of the mysteries of labour force concepts, and discusses the labour force framework and some of the changes in the

structure of the Australian labour force over the last 50 years. For a novice user of ABS labour statistics, or as a refresher, this article provides an ideal introduction to the subject.

For more information regarding the Labour Force Survey estimates, contact Labour Force on Canberra (02) 6252 6525, or via email at [labourforce@abs.gov.au](mailto:labourforce@abs.gov.au).

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR REGION?

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- Victorian Public Service Graduate Training
- Diversity in Victoria
- Outposted Officer in Victoria - A five minute chat

### Queensland

- 'Population Estimates Under the New Geography' roadshow

### South Australia

- ABS Stat Summit - Spatially enabling data seminar
- Rethinking Statistics Workshop

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- Rethinking Statistics Workshop
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### Australian Capital Territory

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- Information session to be held in Canberra: Estimated Resident Population under ASGS
- ABS outposting to the ACT Government Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate
- New Australian Capital Territory Information Development Plan
- ABS thanks festival goers for completing 2011 Census



### VICTORIA

#### Victorian ABS Stats Show



The ABS Stats show brings together staff across government departments to discuss key statistical developments or

issues with whole-of-government benefits and implications. Speakers are drawn from both State Government and the ABS.

The upcoming ABS Stats Show will focus on Local Level Economic Data.

Any given area can be viewed from a number of perspectives; for example population growth, change in the number and size of resident businesses, income levels and employment rates. While the ABS Population Census is a key source for such data, it only comes out every five years. A further understanding of both the businesses that operate and people who live within a given area, as well as a consistent set of indicators to help formulate, implement and monitor economic policy at the local level, continues to be a key priority of government policy makers, planners and analysts.

The next ABS Stats Show will highlight progress towards addressing this information need, including pursuing opportunities from existing administrative data sources.

Date: Wednesday, **16 May 2012**

For further information: email <[victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au)> with the subject 'ABS Stats Show.' Include your name, organisation and contact details.

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## **Victorian Public Service Graduate Training**



For a number of years, the Victorian Statistical Leadership Branch has provided statistical training to all Victorian Public Service (VPS) graduates as part of the annual Victorian State Services Authority Graduate Recruitment and Development Scheme (GRaDS).

The ABS session forms part of a two day Project Management course and assists graduates to develop their ability to access, understand and use information on the ABS website. The session also aims to improve the ability of graduates to communicate statistical information to their audience.

The ABS session asks graduates several pre-course research questions that set the context for the session and highlights some of the skills graduates will be utilising throughout their career.

GRaDS 2012 training occurs early to mid-April with approximately 80 graduates attending. The ABS congratulates the 2012 VPS graduates on their placement, and wishes them well for a career of informed decision making.

Of course, ABS training and development is open to almost anyone. For more information, check out the upcoming Training and Seminars or feel free to get in touch with the ABS Training Contact in your state or territory.

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## **Diversity in Victoria - What is it?**

Diversity is an expansive term that may relate to gender, age, language, ethnicity, cultural background, disability, sexual orientation or religious belief. Diversity also refers to the myriad of ways we are different in other respects such as educational level, job function, socioeconomic background, personality profile, geographic location, marital status and whether or not one has family or other carer responsibilities.

What's Happening in Victoria?

- The ABS Victorian Office has a working group which meets on the first Wednesday each month to publicise and celebrate diversity, for example International Women's Day on 8 March.
- From 4–6 May, Melbourne City Council (MCC) will host 100% Melbourne - a cultural performance of the

demographics of Greater Melbourne. This entertaining theatre show celebrates diversity and continues on from successful shows in Vienna, Berlin and Vancouver. The ABS will be working with the MCC to provide statistical inputs, advice and assistance with the event. For further information including ticket enquiries, please contact Bec Reid on 03 9658 9304 or [bec.reid@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:bec.reid@melbourne.vic.gov.au).

- Victoria's 10<sup>th</sup> Cultural Diversity Week from 17–25 March. The ABS Victorian Office is continuing a strong relationship with the Victorian Multicultural Commission and is pleased to support Cultural Diversity Week 2012. The ABS will have a stand at Federation Square to help raise awareness of Census outputs which highlight cultural diversity across the population.

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### **Outposted Officer in Victoria - A five minute chat**

The need for statistical data and expertise continues to grow as more emphasis is placed on evidence based policy development and evaluation. Outposted Officers build and support strong relationships between government and ABS information services to assist in informed decision making.

ABS Victoria has outposted officers working in a number of government departments and agencies, including Australian Government agencies based in Melbourne, such as the Productivity Commission and Australian Crime Commission.

Predominantly though, ABS Victoria outposted officers work with the Victorian State Government. Let's meet one now.

**Name:** Nick Skondreas

**Where do you work:** Victorian Department of Justice

**Briefly, what is your role at Department of Justice (DoJ):** To promote strategic relationships between DoJ and ABS, develop high quality networks, build statistical capability and support informed decision making.

**What do you like most about your job:** I enjoy working within a different culture, meeting new people and learning how the department operates. The location (Paris end of town) is great too!

**Favourite holiday destination:** The Greek Islands

Thank you Nick!

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### **QUEENSLAND**

### **'Population Estimates Under the New Geography' roadshow visits Townsville and Brisbane**

In July 2011, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) replaced the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) as the new national geography standard. The ASGS defines more stable, consistent and meaningful units than the ASGC and becomes the essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographical dimension of ABS statistics.

The first set of population estimates compiled under the ASGS will be released in July 2012, along with ASGC-based estimates. However, from 2013, estimates will only be prepared based on the new ASGS.

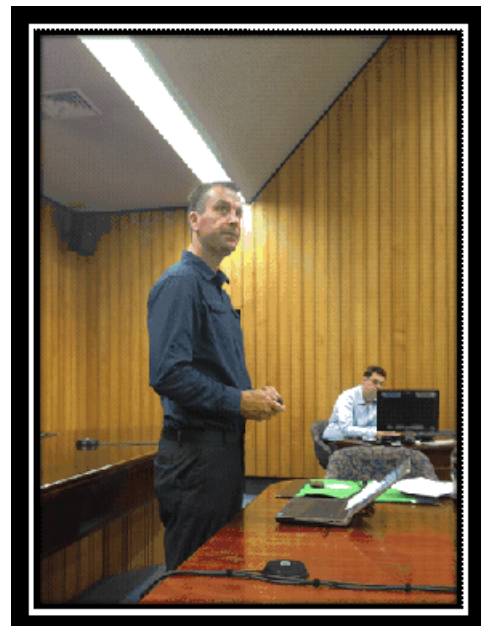
In January 2012, staff from the Regional Population Unit, Andrew Howe, Tricia Dyson and Hayley Sandercock, travelled from the Adelaide Office to Queensland to deliver information sessions explaining the impact of the ABS producing the official population estimates using the new geography standard.



The sessions included:

- a broad overview of the ASGS
- an outline of the availability of population estimates under the new geography, including historical population estimates
- key dates for the release of estimates under the ASGS
- an explanation of the methodology used.

The first session was held in Townsville at the City Council Chambers on 23 January. There was keen interest in this session, as shown by the attendance of approximately 36 people from both government and non-government organisations. Here are the presenters, Tricia and Andrew:



The roadshow then moved to Brisbane where two sessions were conducted. The first was held at the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR) on 24 January, then on 25 January, a public session was held at the ABS Brisbane Office.

The public information session was well attended by approximately 40 people from government and non-government organisations, despite the unusually wet weather. Following the presentation, there were a considerable number of questions posed by the attendees, reflecting the importance of population statistics to many organisations.

For further information on the new geography, see the ABS Information Paper: Population Estimates under Australia's New Statistical Geography (cat. no. 3219.0.55.001) released on 26 August 2011. This paper explains what sub-state population estimates will be produced in future, and how and when they will be released.

If you would like to discuss the implications of ASGS implementation or for further information generally, please contact





## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### ABS Stat Summit

#### Spatially enabling data: bringing your data to life

On 22 March 2012, the ABS in South Australia will be holding a Stat Summit for academics, staff in state and local government agencies, and other interested participants. This interactive discussion will cover the progress being made with collecting, presenting and sharing information within a geospatial context in South Australia.

The featured speakers are Professor Graeme Hugo, Director of the Australian Population and Migration Centre at the University of Adelaide, providing his insights on the potential and challenges of spatially enabling data in Australia; David Harvey, from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), discussing the Spatial Data Sharing Initiative and opportunities for sharing spatial data across government; and Ben Searle, Geospatial Specialist at the ABS, providing an overview of how the ABS can contribute to spatially enabling data through the development of a Statistical Spatial Framework.

This free event will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hindmarsh Square, starting with registration at 9:30am and followed by light lunch and networking at 12:00pm.

Seating is limited, so please RSVP before 15th March 2012, by emailing [sa.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:sa.statistics@abs.gov.au). For more information, contact Grant Hudson on (08) 8237 7475.

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### Rethinking Statistics Workshop

On 10 February 2012, fourteen policy makers and statisticians from the Government of South Australia and ten officers from the South Australian office of the ABS came together to participate in a workshop titled *"Rethinking Statistics - Putting the policy into statistics and the statistics into policy"*.

This one day workshop was led by Jon Hall (Director, Office of the Statistician & External Engagement) and he was joined by Linda Bencic (Director, Victorian Statistical Leadership Branch) in presenting the highly engaging and interactive workshop which received very positive feedback from participants.

For more information about this workshop, please refer to the Seminars and Training page of this newsletter.

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## TASMANIA

### Tasmania *Together* 10 Year Review

Tasmania *Together* is a long term plan to 2020 developed by Tasmanians for Tasmanians in 2001. It is governed by the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board, an independent statutory authority that reports directly to Parliament. The 20 year plan encompasses social, economic and environmental goals which reflect community priorities, as expressed during extensive community consultations undertaken throughout Tasmania in 2000, 2005 and 2010. The five year reviews identify current and emerging areas of concern, allowing the Board to adapt its 20 year plan to reflect the issues that matter most to Tasmanians. The ABS has been involved with Tasmania *Together* since its inception in an advisory role and almost half of the benchmarks are sourced from ABS data.

The Tasmania *Together* Progress Board's 10 Year Review was completed in November 2011 with the suite of recommendations being endorsed by the Tasmanian Parliament. The recommendations included new benchmarks around income distribution, social disorder, school attendance, infant health, homelessness, transport and renewable energy.

There are now 12 goals and 155 benchmarks in the Tasmania *Together* Plan. The online benchmark reports have been updated with the approved changes and can be viewed on the Tasmania *Together* website. The new Plan will be available in March 2012 and the next biennial Tasmania *Together* Progress Report is due for release in August 2012.

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## **Rethinking Statistics - Putting the policy into statistics and the statistics into policy.**

On 30 January, the ABS hosted a one day National Statistical Service workshop for Tasmanian Government policy makers, statisticians and ABS staff to come together to explore the changing role of statistics and the importance of developing relationships between data users and producers to improve evidence based policy decision making.

The workshop was presented by Jon Hall (Director, Office of the Statistician & External Engagement), and he was joined by Marie Apostolou from the National Statistical Services Leadership Branch. For further information about the workshop please refer to the Seminars and Training page of this newsletter.

For further information about ABS events and training in Tasmania please contact Jen Scheppers (03) 6222 5917 or email us at [tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au).

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## **ABS Graduates in Tasmania**

In 2011, the ABS welcomed 164 graduates - the largest number of graduates to ever commence its Graduate Development Program. Graduates were located in all ABS Offices, including three in the Hobart Office. The program provides the opportunity to gain exposure to the organisation working in various sections and across a number of projects.

The 2011 Graduates joined the ABS at a great time as 2011 was the 100th anniversary of Census. This meant that Graduates participated in Census activities across Australia and thoroughly enjoyed being able to contribute to the largest logistical peace time operation undertaken in Australia. In Tasmania, graduates were given the opportunity to develop and implement a Pilot Literacy Strategy to support people with low literacy levels to complete their Census forms. Our graduates also worked with local Neighbourhood Houses and Learning and Information Network Centres (LINC)s to implement successful fill-in-form sessions in key 'high need' locations around Hobart.

We have recently welcomed our 2012 graduates to the Hobart Office and we are looking forward to seeing their upcoming projects.

Applications for the 2013 Graduate Program close 19 April 2012. For more information please visit the Careers page at our website (<https://www.abs.gov.au>).

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## **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

### **ACT Office has a new Regional Director**

Mariette O'Connell was appointed acting Regional Director of the ACT Office in January 2012. Mariette began her career with the ABS in 2002 as a graduate and has worked across a number of areas in social statistics and form design. She came to the ACT office in 2008 and has held a number of positions including Census Engagement Officer and State & Territory Statistical Services Director.

In 2011, Mariette spent five months in Darwin leading the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics team and assisting with the 2011 Northern Australia Census enumeration.

As acting Regional Director, Mariette leads a team that promotes Census and the effective use of data through engagement with the ACT government, business and local community.

The ACT Office would like to thank Stephen Collett for the contributions he has made to the ACT Office during his time as the Regional Director. Stephen built a strong level of professionalism and commitment in the office. He worked with the ACT government to improve its statistical capability and negotiated a new ACT statistical plan. Stephen also initiated the development of an enhanced version of the Socio-economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) to enable the ACT government to identify pockets of disadvantage in otherwise more affluent areas.

Stephen worked closely with the NSW/ACT Census Management Unit in the successful management of the Census in south-eastern NSW and the ACT. We wish Stephen all the best in the future.

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## **Information Session to be held in Canberra: Estimated Resident Population under ASGS**

In December 2010, the ABS released the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) which is gradually replacing the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC). The ASGS defines more stable, consistent and meaningful units than the ASGC and will become the essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographical dimension of ABS statistics.

The ABS will present an information session in Canberra on 1 March 2012 and will address concerns about the classification for both ACT and surrounding regions. The session will focus on how the population estimates are currently prepared and released and how this will change when released under the new geography in future. There will also be time for questions and discussion.

To register for this session and for more information please refer to the Seminars and Training page of this newsletter.

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### **ABS outposting to the ACT Government Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate**

The ABS is currently working with the ACT Government to assist with a project to improve the quality of statistical information for service provision based on location of residence. This will involve conducting a review and appraisal of the challenges across all ACT Government Directorates in the capture of address information and the need for a standardised geo-coding approach to residential address information. This work is being facilitated by an outposted ABS officer, Tim Power.

The outposting will provide a report setting out current issues and specifying recommendations on options to improve ACT governments systems including geo-coding methodology, validation of residence, statistical analysis and reporting. It will also outline options to better capture data on ACT service delivery and options to implement consistent geo-coding protocols across Directorates. For more information contact [tim.power@abs.gov.au](mailto:tim.power@abs.gov.au).

### **New Australian Capital Territory Information Development Plan between ABS and ACT Government**

The Australian Capital Territory Information Development Plan 2012 to 2015 (IDP) has been developed jointly by the ACT regional office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the ACT Government, the IDP recognises the key role that quality statistics play in informed decision making within governments, business and the community. The IDP is scheduled for joint signature by the ACT Government and ABS in late March 2012.

The IDP will provide a high level strategic framework within which the ACT government and the ABS can collaborate to improve the quality and availability of statistical information for the ACT, while protecting confidential information. Ten key activities for collaboration have been agreed to advance the IDP.

The ABS and the ACT government recognise that good quality data will contribute to the national statistical service and assist ACT Government departments develop effective policies and programs. Government administrative and private transaction record databases are seen as a key source of statistics, with survey-based collections used to supplement, calibrate and bridge gaps in these data.

The ABS and ACT Government recognise each other as partners in developing and improving statistical information, and will continue to collaborate in this work.

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### **ABS thanks festival goers for completing 2011 Census**

The ABS marquee returned to the 2012 National Multicultural Festival to thank the community of the ACT and surrounding regions for their support in completing the 2011 Census. Staff from the ACT Regional Office, along with some ABS graduates, thanked the community for their contribution toward the 2011 Census with promotional materials such as balloons, bags, writing pads and stress balls. Festival goers who visited the marquee also left with the knowledge that the first release of results from the 2011 Census were to be released from June this year. It was pleasing to see most people were happy that the information they had supplied was being put to good use. There was also opportunity for people to enquire about all types of data available from ABS as well as gaining insight into the upcoming 2011 Census products and services on offer. The day was a raging success with plenty of interest generated.

For the latest 2011 Census news, visit the Census homepage on the ABS website or subscribe to updates via Census 2011 General Information.

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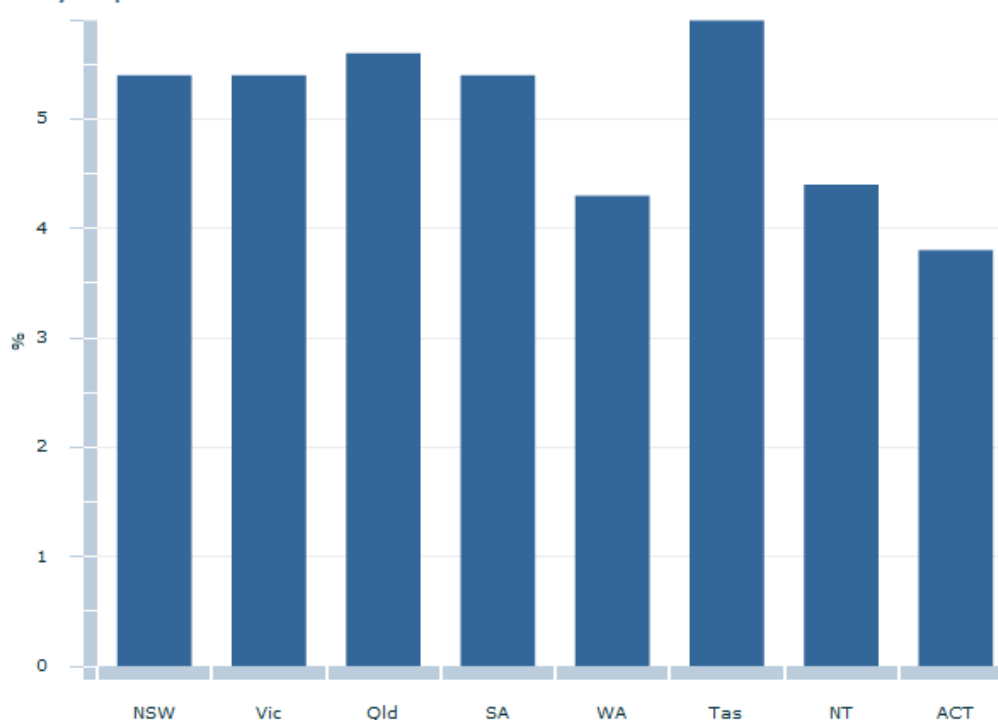


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## STATE AND TERRITORY COMPARISONS

State & Territory comparisons



December 2011

Select a different indicator

Unemployment rate

Save Chart Image

Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Source(s): Various ABS publications

## HOW DOES YOUR STATE OR TERRITORY COMPARE?

Click on the drop down dialogue box above under 'Select a different indicator' and choose from an expanded selection of 10 popular indicators.

All of the indicators are available within the publication State and Territory Statistical Indicators (cat. no. 1367.0) and are updated as new ABS data become available.

Indicator	Time period(a)	Highest		Lowest	
		State	Value	State	Value
Unemployment rate (Trend)	Dec 2011 (M)	Tas	5.9%	ACT	3.8%
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adult ordinary time, original)	Aug 2011 (%Q/Q-4))	WA	10.4%	Vic	2.4%
Building approvals (No. of dwelling units approved, trend)	Dec 2011 (%M/(M-12))	Qld	-10.3%	Tas	-35.9%
Gross State Product (GSP) (Volume measures)	2010-11 (%Y/(Y-1))	WA	3.5%	Qld	0.2%
Retail turnover (Current prices, seasonally adjusted)	Dec 2011 (%Q/(Q-1))	WA	2.2%	Tas	-0.6%
ERP growth (Persons, original(b))	Jun 2011 (%Q/(Q-4))	WA	2.4%	NT	0.4%
CPI (Capital city, all groups)	Dec 2011 (%Q/(Q-4))	Adelaide/ Canberra	3.6%	Brisbane/ Darwin	2.4%
Participation rate (Trend)	Dec 2011 (M)	NT	75.2%	Tas	60.9%
Average weekly equivalised household disposable income (original)	2009-10 (Y)	ACT	\$1,101	Tas	\$708
House price index (Capital city)	Dec 2011 (%Q/(Q-4))	Canberra	-2.6%	Brisbane	-6.7%

(a) M = Month, Q = Quarter, Y=Year.

(b) preliminary.

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## **SEMINARS AND TRAINING**

### **SEMINARS**

National roadshow: ERP under the ASGS  
ERP roadshow to be held in Canberra  
Rethinking Statistics seminar  
Where do I find out about upcoming seminars?

### **STATISTICAL TRAINING**

What statistical training is available?  
Statistical training in Tasmania

### **SEMINARS**

## **ABS ROADSHOW: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION UNDER THE NEW ASGS GEOGRAPHY CLASSIFICATION**



### **November 2011 - March 2012**

From November 2011 the Regional Population Unit located in the South Australian Office of the ABS has been undertaking an extensive Roadshow around the country to explain the impacts of the new geography on population estimates.

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) will have a substantial impact on them, as estimates in future will be prepared based on the new geographic classification. The first set of official population data on the ASGS will be released in July 2012, along with ASGC-based estimates. However from 2013, estimates will only be prepared and released based on the new geography. The ABS will also be making a long time series of data on the new boundaries available in various products.

These are the key messages that the Regional Population Unit has been delivering to external users around the country so they are well aware and prepared for the changes in store for population estimates under the ASGS.

The Roadshow has gone to regional centres including Alice Springs, Townsville and Geelong as well as all capital cities with the last stopover in Canberra on 1 March 2012. For information on population estimates under the ASGS, see the ABS Information Paper: Population Estimates under Australia's New Statistical Geography (cat. no. 3219.0.55.001) released on 26 August 2011.

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## **INFORMATION SESSION TO BE HELD IN CANBERRA: ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION UNDER ASGS**

The ABS Regional Population Unit will present an information session in Canberra on 1 March 2012 to explain the impact of the new ASGS geography on future population estimates and will address concerns about the classification for both ACT and surrounding regions. The session will focus on how the population estimates are currently prepared and

released and how this will change when released under the new geography in future. There will also be time for questions and discussion.

The session will be held from 10am to 12pm on 1 March 2012 at ABS House in Belconnen.

To register your interest, please send an email with 'ERP under ASGS' to [act.office@abs.gov.au](mailto:act.office@abs.gov.au). If you have any questions, or wish to nominate 'questions on notice', don't hesitate to include these when you register your interest.

For further information, please contact Jeremy Walker on 02 6252 5451 or [jeremy.walker@abs.gov.au](mailto:jeremy.walker@abs.gov.au).

For further information on the new geography, see the ABS Information Paper: Population Estimates under Australia's New Statistical Geography (cat. no. 3219.0.55.001) released on 26 August 2011. This paper details what sub-state population estimates will be produced in future, and how and when they will be released.

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## **RETHINKING STATISTICS - PUTTING THE POLICY INTO STATISTICS AND THE STATISTICS INTO POLICY**

Through January and February 2012, the ABS hosted a series of one day National Statistical Service workshops in several states titled *"Rethinking Statistics - Putting the policy into statistics and the statistics into policy"*. The workshops were for government policy makers, statisticians and ABS staff to come together to explore the changing role of statistics and the importance of developing relationships between data users and producers to improve evidence based policy decision making. By rethinking statistics, participants aim to place policy consideration into statistical process and vice versa.

These workshops were based on an OECD program developed in part by Jon Hall, Director, Office of the Statistician & External Engagement, who recently spent six years leading the OECD's Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies, building on the groundbreaking 'Measuring Australia's Progress' publication.

Jon was joined by Marie Apostolou from the National Statistical Services Leadership Branch in presenting highly engaging and interactive workshops which received very positive feedback from participants. For further information about the course, please contact Marie Apostolou on (03) 9615 7500 or Paul Romanis on (03) 9615 7362.

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## **WHERE DO I FIND OUT ABOUT UPCOMING SEMINARS?**

From time to time the ABS offers seminars and information sessions to help you make the best use of ABS information. As details of new sessions become available, these will also be advertised in this newsletter.

Details of ABS conferences, seminars and events are advertised on the following page of the ABS website: [ABS Conferences, Seminars and Events](#).

In addition to ABS activities, the National Statistical Service (NSS) also runs a number of seminars each year. These are advertised on the following page: [Upcoming NSS Seminars](#).

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## **STATISTICAL TRAINING**

### **WHAT STATISTICAL TRAINING IS AVAILABLE?**

The ABS provides training on a large range of topics to develop skills for high quality statistical collections and statistical analysis. Some examples include:

- Running Your Own Survey
- Principles of Questionnaire Design
- Time Series Made Simple

- Understanding Demographic Data
- Analysing Survey Data Made Simple
- ABS Datacubes in SuperTABLE

The full suite of training and learning opportunities are advertised on the ABS website and can be accessed from the ABS Training Pages on the ABS Website.

Additional sessions may be scheduled according to demand. If your preferred course is not currently listed for your State or Territory, please email [training@abs.gov.au](mailto:training@abs.gov.au) with your contact details and the course name to register your interest.

If your training requirements are not met in the list of courses, please contact the ABS Training Contact in your State or Territory.

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## STATISTICAL TRAINING IN TASMANIA

### Enrol now for statistical training

The ABS is offering the following courses in Tasmania to help you develop your statistical skills. Follow the links provided for course details and enrolment information. We encourage you to enrol early to avoid disappointment. Additional courses can be scheduled, according to demand. We welcome you to contact us at [tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au) with your statistical training enquiries.

Turning Data Into Information  
5- 6 March 2012  
Cost \$990 (inc. GST) per person

Making Quality Informed Decisions  
11 April 2012  
Cost \$710 (inc. GST) per person

Analysing Survey Data Made Simple  
31 May -1 June 2012  
Cost \$990 (inc. GST) per person

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## 1367.0 - State and Territory Statistical Indicators, 2012

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 28/02/2012 Final



### RECENT AND UPCOMING ABS RELEASES

#### RECENT RELEASES

21/02/12 **Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2010-11** (cat. no. 4530.0)

Contains summary data about victims for a selected range of personal and household offences including assault, threatened assault, sexual assault, personal robbery, household break-in, attempted break-in, motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle and malicious property damage. People's perceptions about social disorder problems were also included in the survey.

21/02/12 **Learning and Work, Australia, 2010-11** (cat. no. 4235.0)

Presents detailed information about the educational history of people aged 15 years and over and its impact on and relevance to their working lives. Data collected includes the level and field of each qualification, year of completion and whether the qualification was attained in Australia.

01/02/12 **Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, Dec 2011** (cat. no. 6467.0)

The Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) is designed to measure the impact of price change on the disposable incomes of households whose income is derived principally from government pensions or benefits. The PBLCI will be used by the government to inform policy decisions relating to the indexation of base pension rates.

24/01/12 **Innovation and Technology Update, Dec 2011** (cat. no. 8101.0)

A half yearly electronic newsletter published by the Innovation and Technology Statistics Branch which includes recent and upcoming developments on Information and Communication Technology, Innovation and Research and Development statistics.

17/01/12 **Australian Labour Market Statistics, Jan 2012** (cat. no. 6105.0)

Presents a summary of key labour market measures, contains analyses of labour market issues, and resources on how to understand and interpret labour market statistics.

16/01/12 **Housing Finance, Australia, Nov 2011** (cat. no. 5609.0)

Contains time series data for secured and unsecured housing finance commitments for owner occupation, commitments for construction or purchase of dwellings for rent or resale, and loan outstandings to individuals/households for housing.

22/12/11 **Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing – Products and Services, 2011** (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001)

Presents plans for the release of results from the 2011 Census. It provides information on changes to 2011 Census data concepts and classifications; outlines the 2011 output product range and associated pricing policies; and confirms key release dates for the full range of 2011 Census output products.



**21/12/11 Perspectives on Migrants** (cat. no. 3416.0)

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey article presents a broad range of national level statistics about the countries of birth, broad visa groups, labour force status, occupations and educational attainment of recent migrants. It then analyses many of these characteristics in the context of the five largest states: New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. Parts of the analysis use data contained within reports published by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

**20/12/11 Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, 2011** (cat. no. 4156.0)

Provides a statistical overview of sports and physical recreation in Australia. Topics covered include output of the sports and physical recreation sector, employment in sports and physical recreation, government outlays on recreation, international trade in sports and physical recreation goods, spectator attendance at sporting events, and participation in sports and physical recreation activities.

**20/12/11 Energy Account, Australia, 2009-10** (cat. no. 4604.0)

Presents estimates of supply and use of energy products in Australia for 2009-10. This issue is the first of the annual ABS Energy Account Australia (EAA) releases, forming the Australian Bureau of Statistics' commitment to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy (SEEA-E) framework. Prior to this release ABS energy accounts were produced biennially for the 2006-07 and 2008-09 periods.

**19/12/11 Consumer Price Index: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2011** (cat. no. 6461.0)

A comprehensive description of the Australian Consumer Price Index (CPI) based on the 16th Series – what the index measures, the goods and services included in it, where the information on prices comes from, how the index is calculated, and how the statistics can be used. It also provides some insight into the kinds of problems the ABS encounters in compiling the CPI and explains how these are dealt with.

**14/12/11 Australian Social Trends** (cat. no. 4102.0)

Released quarterly, Australian Social Trends presents analysis and commentary on a wide range of social issues. The December edition contains articles on components of wealth, international students and 50 years of labour statistics: now and then. It also includes national and state summary indicator sets (as Excel datacubes) in the areas of Family and community, Economic resources, Housing and Work.

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## **FUTURE RELEASES**

**05/03/12 Business Indicators, Australia, Dec 2011** (cat. no. 5676.0)

Contains quarterly estimates of profits, income from the sale of goods and services, wages and salaries, and the book value of inventories. State/territory data will also be included for sales, and wages and salaries, in current price terms.

**13/03/12 Historical Selected Agriculture Commodities, by State (1861 to Present), 2009-10** (cat. no. 7124.0)

Contains estimates of agricultural production from 1861 to the most recent data available. Area and production data are provided for wheat, oats and barley. Livestock data, including the number of sheep, cattle (meat and milk) and pigs, are also included. All data are presented at state/territory and national levels.

**30/03/12 Internet Activity, Australia, Dec 2011** (cat. no. 8153.0)

Presents details of internet activity supplied by Internet Service Providers in Australia with more than 1,000 active subscribers. It includes information on internet subscribers and their type of access connection, the type of user (i.e. business/household), the volume of data downloaded, the speed of internet connection and the location of the subscriber (by state or territory).

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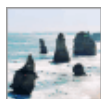
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[nsw.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:nsw.statistics@abs.gov.au)



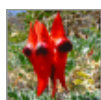
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